3-2-1 Session 2; Assignment 2

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*What Are Formative Assessments and Why Should We Use Them?*

**3 important details**  
 1. Formative assessments “support learning during the learning process”.

2. Formative assessments can provide students with practice and don’t have to be graded. This type of assessment should check student understanding and then guide the instruction.

3. The assessment doesn’t have to be time consuming and is worth the time it does take by providing the teacher with important data.

**2 connections**

1. A wide variety of practical and useful formative assessments are available for teachers to use.
2. Using a variety of assessments (individual, partner, small group or whole class) can also provide differentiated instruction.

**1 question to consider**

Once implemented, how do teachers manage this additional data when there isn’t enough teaching time to cover all of the material?

ASSESSMENT *for* LEARNING

**3 important details**

1. Assessments alone are not enough. Teachers must assess, analyze, adjust instruction and provide feedback so the student may gain knowledge and improve achievement.
2. Effective formative assessments can lead to profound learning gains. However, to reach that outcome schools must first learn to use summative and formative assessments equally and to balance high stakes testing with classroom assessments.
3. The idea of assessing students and the way in which it is done must evolve. The most dependable assessment in the world cannot be regarded as high quality if it has a counterproductive effect on learning or on students.

**2 connections**

1. Professional development is needed regarding assessment and it must start with the instructional leaders.
2. Students need to be encouraged to reflect on their level of understanding, seek teacher feedback and be taught to consider some assessments as a snapshot of where they are in the learning process and where they need to go next.

**1 question to consider**

This article makes some very valid points. However, where does one start with implementation?